

**James Monroe to Thomas Jefferson, May 25, 1784, from  
Thomas Jefferson and James Monroe Correspondence,  
Transcribed and Edited by Gerard W. Gawalt,  
Manuscript Division, Library of Congress**

**James Monroe to Thomas Jefferson**

Annapolis [May] 25. 1784.

Dear Sir

I recd.. this moment yours of the 21st. My letter by the last post will inform you of the occasion wh.. pointed that as the favorable moment for a trip to Georgetown & of our availing ourselves of it. Yesterday evening we return'd. Our report will be in favor of the *Maryland* side & of a position near the\_ town. Upon our return we found that business had been conducted as we expected. The affr. of *Rhode Isld.* had not been settled till Monday (yesterday) & that in a very extraordinary way. I inform'd you whence the motion for inquiry originated & I believe, of the *warmth* with wh.. it was conducted. I never saw more *indecent conduct* in any *Assembly* before. The *dispute* was more pointed between *Mercer & Howell*. After *exhausting* each other, the earnest desire to proceed to business existing with the other part of Congress prevail'd & this consideration being forc'd to give way to that *Mercer & Read* had only the alternative of *withdrawing* or putting their *protest* upon the journals. *Virginia* & *S. Carolina* stand, I hear, for as yet I have seen nothing formally enter'd, in protest agnst. the continuance of these delegates or their right to *vote*, under their present authority. I am told this is in the name of the delegations on behalf of their respective States. What hath this business to do with *Virginia* or *Virginia* with it, more than any other *state* in the *U.S.*? & wherefore is she bro't so intemperately & actively on the field? To-day we resume (I am inform'd) the consideration of the western posts. What will be the result

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is incertain. *New York*, I hear, will put restraint on every measure till she attains the object of her memorial or statemt. handed in before you left us. Other *States* will be perhaps for doing nothing & some persons who cannot perhaps attain what they wish may at

tempt to mar the whole. We have now only 8 days before the adjournment so that the prospect of effecting these & other objects before us is unfavourable. My last letter gave you the balance of what Mr. Jenefer inform'd me from his memory, for he had no memorandum abt. him, & the post admitted not of delay, wh. I pd. him. I understood the whole was for yrsrself & transmitted it to you in bank bills except abt. 7 or 8 dolrs. For wh.. I cod. not procure a bill. By y'r. letter I am incln'd to suspect I have been mistaken & that I shod. have given the balance to Mr. Hardy, but his or any other mistake you will please to rectify & give me the necessary information & let me do it. I shall go instantly upon the business of yr. other commands. Forw'd, if not yet gone, yr. instructions &c, & will attempt giving you the powers to negotiate with F. if you have them not, but I suppos'd you had, for so I think it was reported & I do not recollect that it was negativ'd. It is certainly necessary something shod.. be done respecting the restraint on tobo in France, to extricate it from the monopoly of the farmers genl. contrary in my opinion to the spirit of the treaty, but I am not sufficiently inform'd on this subject to take it up & wish y'r. advice. The cypher I find is imperfect, I have only us'd it for the present purpose. It appears to me only to want one to write by & in that case we may remedy the inconvenience. Otherwise I will make a new one & forw'd. it by Mr. Lucerne or some other gentleman of distinction. I shall write you constantly, as well before you quit the

continent as after. I have the pleasure to inform you that I have information from Mr. Jones that the facilities will eventually be of as great convenience to our State as any in the Union, & that their admission is consider'd as a great eas'ment to the State. Yr. fri'd. & serv't. Jas. Monroe

P.S. Be so kind as assure Mr. Hopkinson that I consider'd the part of his letter you allude to was only intended for yrself & that I have kept it as secret as his utmost delicacy wou'd.

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require, assure him further that in yr. absence by any letters address'd to me he shall most fully command my services. I have wrote to the Merct.. at B. to desire Mr. Curson to forward me his acct. which I shall pay immediately & also to inquire abt. the books. I still owe you wh. you tell me to whom I shall make payment.

RC (Jefferson Papers, Library of Congress). Words in italics were written in cypher by Monroe.